



VOL. XVI.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 20, 1848.

NO. 3.



OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

### DRILL CULTURE.

The different modes of planting crops, or of committing the seed to the earth, are principally confined to the broadcast sowing of grain, and planting in hill by the hand, corn, root crops, beans, &c. The system of drill culture, or of planting our wheat and other grain by means of a machine that shall distribute the seed in regular rows or drills but a little distance apart, has been but very little tried. There are at present good reasons for this, we suppose, arising, in the first place, on account of the newness of the soil and its not being in many places sufficiently smooth for the purposes of using the drill, and also on account of there not as yet having been any good, simple, effectual machine introduced among us at a reasonable price, by which this labor could be done on lands that have been made sufficiently smooth and level for their use.

From observation and some slight experimenting of our own, we have no doubt that the drill system is much the best for most of the crops that we cultivate. That there is both economy in regard to the amount of seed for planting, in the occupancy of the soil, as it regards number and equality of the plants, and also in the increase of the crop. Machinery for this purpose is coming more into use in the older parts of the country, and as they become used, and the nature of the operation required becoming better understood, they are simplified and improved, and have now been rendered almost perfect.

We see, in the last American Farmer, a communication from Major J. Jones, of Wheatland, in Delaware, on the subject of his farm management, in which he recommends the use of the drill. He says: "I sow all my grain with the drill—wheat, oats, Indian corn, and broom corn, and if I should sow buckwheat I should put that in with the drill also."

"As an evidence of the superiority of the drill over broadcast sowing, Mr. J. C. Clark, the President of the Newcastle County Agricultural Society, stated at one of our late regular meetings, that he gathered twice as much wheat last harvest from land drilled, with one bushel and a quarter to the acre, as he did from two bushels broadcast."

Mr. Clark has since then purchased one of Pennock's drills. We have more than twenty of these drills in Newcastle county, besides which we have two others of English make. Some of these drill machines are very expensive, especially those which are arranged for the purpose of sowing guano, bone dust, or other similar manures with the seed. One, however, that would sow seeds well, need not be very complex or costly.

### ANTIDOTE TO POISONS.

As a general rule all antidotes for poisons should be taken as soon as possible after the poisonous matters have been taken into the system.

Alcohol or strong grog has been known to cure the bite of a rattlesnake. This was first discovered by a man who was thoroughly intoxicated, being bitten by a rattlesnake, without being poisoned. The poison that was already in him was too strong for any that a rattlesnake could put in. Olive oil, in large quantities, has been given successfully in cases of bites from this venomous reptile. Some chemists have pronounced the poisonous matter which the rattlesnake injects to be an alkali, and the shepherds of the western prairies generally succeed in curing those sheep that have been bitten by the little prairie rattlesnake, by giving them a quantity of saleratus water in season.

For poisons of the vegetable kingdom, such as strychnine, &c., charcoal has been recommended. It is said if strychnine or nuxvomica be mixed with ivory black and taken, their poisonous qualities are neutralized and rendered harmless. The fresh oxide of iron is said to be an antidote for arsenic. White of eggs, milk or sugar, for corrosive sublimate.

### A HENOLOGICAL FACT.

The importance of the use of lime to some animals, is very pleasantly illustrated in the following manner, by a correspondent of the Boston Medical Journal, A. C. Castle, M. D., of New York.

"The most amusing illustration, says he, of the want of lime, and the effects of its presence, came under my notice on my voyage from South America to 'Sunny France.' We had omitted to procure gravel for our poultry, and in a few days after we were at sea the poultry began to droop, and wound up their afflictions with the 'pip,' or, as the sailors term it, the 'scury.' Their feathers fell from their bodies, and it was perfectly ludicrous to see the numerous unsightly tribe in the most profound misery, moping away their time in an utter state of nudity. Amusing myself one day, by fishing up 'gulph weed,' which floated in immense 'flocks' upon the surface of the ocean, I shook from it numerous small crabs, about the size of a pea. The poultry, with one accord, aroused themselves from their torpor, and seemingly, as if by instinct aware of the therapeutic qualities of these interesting animals, they partook of them with greater avidity than any invalid ever swallowed the 'waters' of the 'springs.' After a few hours the excellence of the remedy was apparent; the 'roosters' began to crow, the hens to strut and look saucy, and in a few days all appeared in

quite a holiday suit of feathers, derived from the lime, the constituent part of the crab shells.

### GUTTA PERCHA.

A new substance by the name of Gutta Percha is coming into use, and will, no doubt, be put to many very useful purposes. Mr. Aaron H. Palmer has been investigating the properties of it, and stated at a recent meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, as we see reported in the Farmer and Mechanic, that the Percha is a gum obtained from a large tree, which abounds in the Malay Peninsula, in Borneo, Celebes, &c., and that it attains six feet in diameter.

In many respects this gum resembles caoutchouc (India rubber). It is soluble in spirits of turpentine—a varnish may be made of it. At the temperature of the air it is almost elastic. In boiling water it softens to a pulp, and may then be moulded in any way and retain the forms when cold. Acids and the reagents do not appear to affect it, nor damp, nor changes of the temperature of the air. When in the pulpy state, it may be forced through small holes, producing threads, which, when cold, are said to be as strong as cat-gut. Cloth woven with a portion of these threads, is exceedingly strong. Mr. Wells of Northampton has used it for book-binding.

It will be readily seen by the above description that it will soon be put to a great many purposes, and in a few years large quantities will be imported from the East Indies, for making innumerable Yankee notions.

[For the Maine Farmer.]

### IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE.

MR. HOLMES.—It is matter for congratulation that the subject of agricultural improvement is one which is decidedly gaining influence over the people of our country. If several among the most enlightened nations of Europe are at this time making stronger efforts than ever with a view to improve their husbandry, will our country long remain indifferent or deficient in this respect?

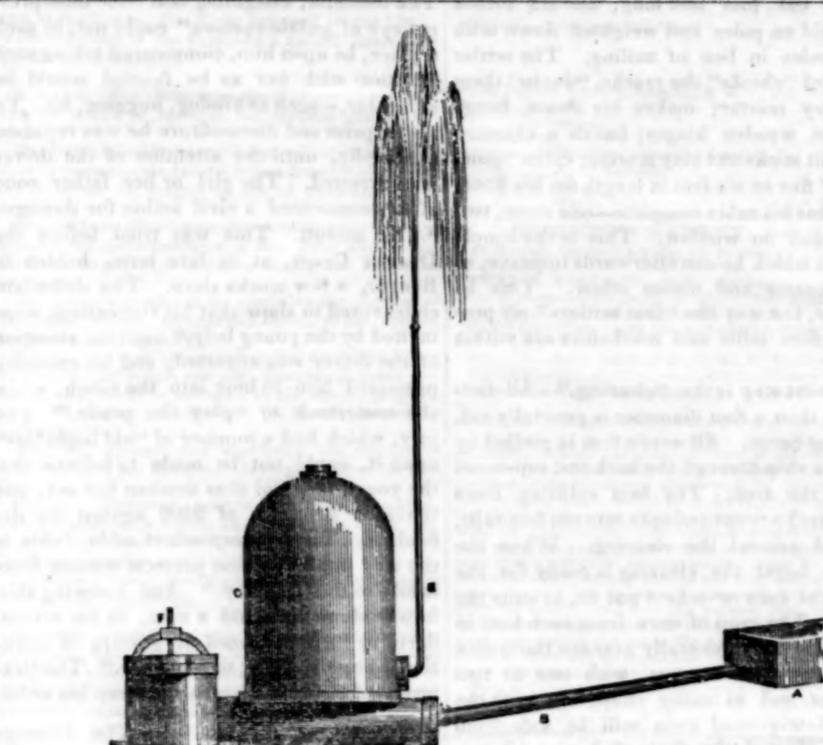
We may be proud of the men who wielded the destinies of our republic during its revolutionary struggle and the first stages of the existence of our government. But it is easy enough to foresee that dangers may threaten us in different forms. If we refer to ancient history, it is apparent enough how far the industrious husbandman was instrumental in sustaining the great principles of civil liberty. And if an insatiable love of military glory, and at length the decline of agriculture, combined with corrupt ambition, produced the destruction of the last of the ancient republics, it remains to be determined whether to give the right direction to public opinion is not of high importance.

Our country is terrible in arms. We have brave men upon each hill and river, but if the people become deficient in virtuous principles we must soon be a degraded nation. Will it be called an unsafe assertion to say, that the task yet remains to the American statesman to give the right shape to our national character? To inculcate a spirit of agricultural improvement is of more political importance than the capture of a hundred cities. To correct the existing abuses in our country, would be of more solid utility than the subjugation of a whole hemisphere. The downfall of corruption and the removal of sectional jealousies, is extremely desirable. Of designing men we have not a few who may oppose any innovation which may tend to correct the great political evils which threaten our country, and indeed we may have honest men who may be led astray by over-heated zeal. If we take into view the immense extent of our country, our varied rich products, and our advantages so well calculated to facilitate internal trade, who can be so lost to a sense of patriotism as not to desire the correction of all political evils which may tend to cramp or prevent the development of interests so vast? Our internal trade may, in a very few years, exceed in amount what the entire commerce of the whole globe now is. Manufacturers and all the mechanic arts may, in the mean time, be carried to any desirable length. But indeed the fact has often been asserted that agriculture is superior in importance to any other branch of industry, whether we have regard to national prosperity or the safety of republican liberty. Even an intelligent agricultural population may, however, become so far corrupted that it may yield itself a willing tool for designing men. But let us not despair of the republic. The right education of youth and the diffusion of the right kind of information among the people, may afford a *healing balm*. Once more, we say, let us push forward Agriculture. J. E. ROLFE.

Rumford, Dec., 1847.

THE SEA KALE.—(*Crambe maritima*).—This vegetable, though highly esteemed for its many excellent properties, is seldom found in country gardens. The seeds are sown in beds, like those of asparagus—generally in drills. When the seedlings make their appearance, they are thinned to eighteen inches distance, two or three plants being left at each station. The soil best adapted to the sea kale, is a light sand, and can rarely be so poor. This plant was many years in being introduced into the gardens of this country, and was for a long time repugnant to the taste of most people.

GARLIC.—(*Allium Sativum*). This is a species of rank flavored onion, and the directions for cultivating it are similar to those given for the treatment of the shallot. Its maturation is indicated by the decadence of its foliage. It is deemed indispensable in high cookery, and is a vegetable of easy cultivation, and one that succeeds well on moist soils, excepting always the more heavy clays. Ashes, soap, lime and common charcoal, previously pulverized, are excellent stimulants and ought ever to be liberally supplied, not only to the garlic, but to all the other varieties of the onion tribe.



Birkhead's Ram—Figure 1.

### SUPPLY YOURSELF WITH GOOD WATER.

One of the substances absolutely essential to the continuance and comfort of life in man or beast, is good water. It is therefore an object of the utmost importance to have a supply of it, and this supply furnished in the most complete and economical manner. Those only who have been deprived of this fluid, or who have been supplied only by *lugging* or *carrying* it, even from a short distance, know the real value of a full supply of it just where you want it.

We know of many house-keepers and farmers who are so situated that by the means of a very simple, cheap, and durable apparatus, they might have an abundance of water delivered just where they want, by the operation of the water itself, thus literally making it do the work of bringing itself to their hands, but who, nevertheless, in consequence of either not knowing of the existence of such an invention or being unacquainted with the principles of it, are under the necessity of taking many steps and daily performing much hard labor to supply themselves and cattle.

We have thought we could not do a better service to a great number of our readers, and perhaps to the community generally, than by publishing Birkhead's excellent little work on the subject of furnishing water to houses and farm-yards, which first appeared in the American Journal of Agriculture and Science. This work is published in Albany, under the editorial charge of Prof. Ennison.

C. N. Bement, also of Albany, is known all over the Union, for his enthusiasm and practical skill in agriculture, and the many improvements he has made, as well as the good he has done, in the various departments of husbandry.

If he had done nothing else but embodied the facts and illustrations which he has, in this little treatise, he would be entitled to the lasting gratitude of the farmers of our country.

We will merely add that these machines can now be had at the several agricultural ware houses, and that their cost is from fifteen to twenty dollars. The digging, setting down, and the tubes or pipes necessary to convey the water to the desired spot, will be a separate expense, and vary according to circumstances of location.

[From the American Jour. of Ag. and Science.]

### HYDRAULICS FOR FARMERS.

BY C. N. BEMENT.

Among all the devices or contrivances for conveying water from a lower to an upper level, nothing as yet has been discovered equal to the Hydraulic Ram. It is a very ingenious and effective machine for raising water by its own impulse, and comes nearer to a perpetual motion than any other machine that has ever fallen under my notice.

If a column or body of water, moving rapidly under a head, through a pipe, is suddenly checked, its tendency is to burst the pipe. This is well known in all places where there are water works, from the bursting of the leaden supply pipes, where these are not strong enough, on the sudden shutting of the hydrant cocks. If a small hole is made in the pipe just above the cock, the water will escape from it in a very high jet, much higher than the head whenever the cock is shut. It is this principle which is brought into action in the hydraulic ram. If a small, straight, upright pipe is attached to the hole, just mentioned, in the main pipe, having a valve shutting downwards, which will permit the water to pass up, but not to return, each opening and shutting of the cock will force up in proportion to the head upon the main pipe, until the weight of the water in the smaller pipe is greater than can be moved by the momentum of the water in the main pipe, when the latter is suddenly closed.

Every person accustomed to draw water from pipes that are supplied from very elevated sources, must have observed, when suddenly closed, a jar or tremor communicated to the pipes, and a snapping sound, like that from small blows of a hammer. These effects are produced by blows which the ends of the pipes receive from the water—the liquid particles in contact with the plug of a cock, when it is turned to stop the discharge, being forcibly driven up against it by those constituting the moving mass behind.

Waves of the sea act as water-rams against rocks or other barriers that impede their progress; and when their force is increased by storms of wind, the most solid structures give way before them.

The increased force water acquires when its motion is accelerated, might be shown by a thousand examples. A bank or trough that easily retains it when at rest, or when slightly

moved, is often insufficient when its velocity is greatly increased. When a deep lock of a canal is opened to transfer a boat or vessel to a lower level, the water is permitted to descend by slow degrees. Were the gates opened at once, the rushing mass would sweep the gates before it, or the greater portion would be carried in the surge quite over them, and perhaps the vessel also. A sluggish stream drops almost perpendicularly over a precipice; but the momentum of a rapid one shoots it over, and leaves a wide space between. It is so with a stream issuing from a horizontal tube. If the liquid pass slowly through, it falls inertly at the orifice; but if its velocity be considerable, the jet is carried to a distance ere it touches the ground.

That the force which a running stream thus acquires may be made to drive a portion of the liquid far above the source whence it flows, is obvious from several operations in nature. During a storm of wind, long swelling waves in the open sea alternately rise and fall, without the crests or tops of any being elevated much above the rest; but when they meet from opposite directions, or when their progress is suddenly arrested by the bow of a ship, by rocks, or other obstacles, part of the water is driven to great elevations.

The hydraulic ram raises water on precisely the same principles; a quantity of the liquid is set in motion through an inclined tube, and its escape from the lower orifice is made suddenly to cease, when the momentum of the moving mass drives up, like the waves, a portion of its own volume, to an elevation much higher than that from which it descended. This may be illustrated by an experiment familiar to most people. Suppose the lower orifice of a tube (where the upper one is connected to a reservoir of water) be closed with the finger, and a very minute stream be allowed to escape from it in an upward direction, the tiny jet would rise nearly to the surface of the reservoir. It could not of course ascend higher. But if the finger was then moved to one side, so as to allow a free escape, until the whole contents of the tube were rapidly moving to the exit, and the orifice then at once contracted or closed as before, the jet would dart far above the reservoir; for, in addition to the hydrostatic pressure which drove it up in the first instance, there would be a new force acting upon it, derived from the momentum of the water.

As in the case of a hammer of a few pounds weight, when at rest on the anvil, it exerts a pressure on the latter with a force due to its weight only; but when in motion by the hand of the smith, it descends with a force that is equivalent to the pressure of perhaps a ton.

At a hospital in Bristol, England, a plumber was employed to convey water through a leaden tube, from a cistern in one of the upper stories, to the kitchen below; and it happened that the lower end of the tube was burst nearly every time the cock was used. After several attempts to remedy the evil, it was determined to solder one end of the small pipe immediately behind the cock, and to carry the other end to as high a level as the water in the cistern. And now it was found that on shutting the cock, the pipe did not burst as before, but a jet of considerable height was forced from the upper end of this new pipe. It therefore became necessary to increase its height, to prevent water escaping from it; upon which it was continued to the top of the hospital, being twice the height of the supplying cistern; but when, to the great surprise of those who constructed the work, some water still issued. A cistern was therefore placed to receive this water, which was found very convenient, since it was thus raised to the highest floors of the building, without any extra labor. Here circumstances led the workman to the construction of a water ram, without knowing that such a machine had been previously devised.

It is now more than fifty years since the first discovery was made known, and it has until within a few years, been regarded more as a scientific toy than of practical utility. It is a matter of surprise, too, that so beautiful a contrivance should have laid dormant and neglected, and scarcely known except to the scientific.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NEW DISH. It is not perhaps generally known that common beets, roasted in embers or baked in a stove, in the same manner you would cook potatoes, are much sweeter and dryer than when prepared for the table in the ordinary way by boiling. Such, nevertheless, is the fact. When they are perfectly done, peel and serve them in the ordinary way. It is better when beets are required for this purpose, to select such as are of medium size, smooth, and perfectly round, as large roots do not cook so readily or so well, on account of their size.

### OUT OF THE EXTRA TEATS.

MR. HOLMES.—Most farmers are acquainted with the inconvenience of having cows with more than four teats, and it is usually considered an important objection, although such are generally, if not invariably, good milkers. Having a cow liable to this objection, and whose calves were all subject to the same, I thought to try an experiment by cording the two hindmost teats from a yearling heifer, which I accordingly did in the spring of 1846. Said heifer dropped her first calf on the 23d of last month, and I am gratified in being able to say that the experiment has proved entirely satisfactory.

Last spring the same cow brought another calf, having the same objectionable appendage, which I removed at four or five weeks old. I communicate the result of this experiment with the hope that it may be tried by others, and many a good calf thereby saved from the knife of the butcher.

J. B. F.

Winthrop, Dec. 15, 1847.

NOTE. The above is a valuable experiment. We have frequently been troubled with too many of these half grown teats upon a cow's bag while milking. By the above method it seems they may be got rid of very safely and easily. [Editor.]

### HUMOROUS REPORT ON BUTTER.

We copy the following report from the Farmer's Monthly Visitor. There is a good deal of humor conveyed in it, told with a rich vein of humor that is capital. It is from the pen of S. B. Little, of the Merrimack (N. H.) Agricultural Society.

"The beneficence of the Creator is manifest in so disposing our tastes, and so adapting these to the varieties with which we are surrounded, as to make life a scene of enjoyment instead of a burden. It might have been that necessary food would have been noisome, as it is sometimes to the diseased stomach, had it not pleased the Creator to have ordered it otherwise. Bread is the staff of life, but butter is given to make it slip down easier and with a better relish. But it depends something on who makes the butter whether it answers this purpose. Butter made in Joe Bunker's family needs to be eaten in the dark; then to make it pass well one or two other senses should be laid aside—while that made by his brother Jonathan may be eaten in the full blaze of noon; you would wish that your neck as long again that you might have the pleasurable sensation of swallowing prolonged. Perhaps a bit of the history of their better halves will explain the whole matter."

Joe's wife was Sally Sly—when a small girl she was sly—she would not half wash the milk pail and sly it away and let it sour. She was sly at school and did not half get her lessons, but would have her book in sight when reciting; but as she grew older she learned that to get well married she must appear well, and so she bent all her cunning to get a superficial education in every thing, from routing a potato to playing the piano. Poor Joe fell in love with her, and "love has no eyes"—so he married her. But soon after she entered on housekeeping his eyesight came, and he saw his fix that it was "for better or for worse"; and he thought it was for worse. Like a true philosopher he concluded to endure what he could not avoid nor cure, and got along tolerably well only when he came to her butter—for his mother was a real butter-maker. Every time he saw or tasted of Sally's butter he felt the horrors. Her manner of making butter was something as follows: she thinks it of no consequence whether the milk pail be sweet or sour—sets the milk in a warm room, because it is easier than to go to the cellar, and if some dirt should blow into the pail she thinks every man must "eat a peck of dirt," and no place will it slip down easier than in butter—she lets the cream pots be open, and when she churns forgets the poke, leaves the cream nearly as hot as heat that it may come quick. When she takes it out of the churn she picks out the bodies of all flies and spiders—the legs and wings are so small they can be swallowed. She works out half the butter milk and sets it away in a warm place for use. Poor Joe has seen so much butter of this kind that he declares butter does not agree with his health, and will not taste it. Yet his wife wonders why he does not try it, and marvels why he does not keep a dairy, and make butter for market.

Jonathan was a younger brother of Joe, and he had occasion to eat at his brother's enough to know why he could not eat butter; and he declared he never would marry without knowing what his bread would be buttered with. Following the bent of his fancy, he made several attempts at matrimony, and Julia Juniper almost caught him, for there was always good butter on the table at tea, but he was determined to know who made it. On enquiry, she says, "La me! mother makes the butter: I take lessons on the piano."

"Well," says Jonathan, "I want a wife that takes lessons on the churn—I shall look for her." After several unsuccessful attempts, and just ready to despair, he started in pursuit of stray cattle, before breakfast, and wandered across the forest into the corner of the next town, and weary and hungry called at a decent looking house and asked for some refreshment, which was most cordially granted, for the family were what were called Scotch-Irish—in religion Presbyterian, and in hospitality boundless. Here he found the butter exactly right—though the weather was hot, the butter kept its shape as well as best wax. He enticed the old lady about her housewifery—for the bread was as right as the butter. The old lady said her health was feeble—she could do but little, and Jenny had the whole management. He made some round-about enquiries concerning Jenny, and learned she was a hearty, black haired, black eyed lass, of about two and twenty; had never seen a piano nor attended a ball—but knew the Assembly's catechism; could sing Old Hundred to a charm—spin flax and darn stockings, and was then gone to town with

butter. He lingered, but she was delayed, and when his excuses for staying were all exhausted he started. He could not get the good butter out of his mind; and how it happened I know not, he soon found his way there again, and the result of his adventure was he made a wife of Jane McKean. And now one lump of his butter is worth more than all Joe's wife would make in a month. There's no trouble in going to market—the keepers of genteel boarding houses in the neighboring village send and take it at the highest market price.

Now the main difference in these two women arises from their manner of training, though there is no difference in natural disposition. Old Madam Sly never looked on to see that Sally done up her work right, but suffered her to sly off her work as she chose, and though a good housekeeper herself, was altogether too indulgent, and like some other mothers, thought more of getting Sally well married than of making her fit for a wife—while old madam McKean was determined Jenny should be fit for any man a wife, whether she got married or not. Perhaps there is no more certain criterion by which to judge of a woman's general character for neatness and good housekeeping than by the quality of her butter. Find on the farmer's table a good, solid, properly salted, well worked slice of butter, and you need not fear to eat the pan-cakes or hash; but if you see a splash of half-worked butter—salt in lumps and a sprinkling of hair and flies' legs, you may be sure if you board there long, death will not be obliged to wait for you to finish your peck of dirt. My advice is to young farmers to make it a *sine qua non* in a wife that she makes prime butter; and the young ladies who aspire to be farmers' wives, had much better be imperfect in filagree and music than be deficient in that most important art of making butter, which smooths not only the sharp corners of crust and crackers, but will smooth asperities of the husband's temper.

The exhibition on this occasion has been splendid and indicates that Merrimack County can show as good butter as heart could wish. There were so many good specimens as to lead the Committee to wish for more premiums to dispose of, and caused some difficulty in disposing of those we had."

### HORSES OF SPEED AND BOTTOM.

The National Intelligencer furnishes an account of the extraordinary performances of some Californian horses used by Col. Fremont in traversing a section of Upper California. It is stated that Col. F., with two attendants, performed a journey of eight hundred miles in eight days, including all stoppages and nearly two days' detention. Each of the party had three horses, nine in all, which took their turns under the saddle. The six loose horses ran ahead without bridle or halter, and were kept to the track by the riders. When a horse was wanted for a change, he was caught with the *lasso* thrown by one of the men, the saddle and bridle transferred to him, and the other horse turned loose. This change was made at a distance of about twenty miles. The usual gait was a sweeping gallop. The way was over a mountainous country, much of it uninhabited, and many difficulties to pass. They traveled at the rate of one hundred to one hundred and twenty miles a day, until they reached a city, San Luis Obispo, about half way to their place of destination, which was Monterey, on the Pacific ocean. At San Luis Obispo the nine horses were left and eight others taken in their places. With the fresh horses the party pursued their journey to Monterey, and returned to San Luis Obispo. Two of the latter horses had been presented to Col. Fremont by a Californian, (Don Jesus Pico) and were considered as specimens of a famous breed called "*los caninos*" or the cinnamonos, from their being of a cinnamon color. These two horses were brothers, one a year younger than the other. To test their powers, they were at the request of the Californian who had presented them to Col. F., put to a severe trial. On leaving Monterey, late in the afternoon, the elder horse was first put under the saddle, and ridden thirty miles, when the party stopped for the night. The next morning the same horse was again taken by Col. F., and for ninety miles he carried him without apparent fatigue. It was still thirty miles to the place which was to be the end of their day's ride, and the Californian insisted that the horse could easily accomplish it; but Col. F. would not put him to the trial. The saddle was therefore shifted to the younger horse, and the other allowed to run loose for the remaining thirty miles. "He did so," says the writer of the account, "immediately taking the lead and keeping it all the way, and entering San Luis in a sweeping gallop, nostrils distended, snuffing the air and neighing with exultation at his return to his native pastures, his younger brother all the while running at the head of the horses under the saddle, bearing on his bit, and held in by his rider." The eight horses made a hundred and twenty miles a day till their return to San Luis Obispo, when the nine horses that were first taken were again brought out, and the remainder of the journey performed with them at the rate of a hundred and twenty-five miles a day. It is stated that the grass along the road was the food for the horses during the journey. They are said to be trained with great care, and exhibit remarkable sagacity and spirit. Could not Col. Fremont procure a few of the best of these horses and send them into the States? If they were what the account to which we have referred represents, they would be the most valuable trophy which the conquest of California has yielded us.

[Albany Cultivator.]

C. N. Bement, Esq., of this city, has lately disposed of some stock to Dr. J. N. Langdon, of Kennebunk Port, Maine. The stock consisted of a bull calf and a yearling heifer, a cross of the Ayrshire and Durham. They were very pretty animals, and we presume will make good dairy stock.

[Albany Cultivator.]

THE PURCHASE OF A HORSE. The following directions, &c., were first published in England as part of a size essay. I copy from Skinner's Farmer's Library, and I think they may be valuable to the reader of the Cabinet. When the farmer wishes to purchase a horse, and is obliged to go into the market or to auction to do it; he hardly runs a greater risk in any purchase he makes: and would do well either thoroughly to acquaint himself in the matter or take a friend with him who is at home when handling the horse. This comes from one who has suffered from his own ignorance.

"Having selected a horse whose make and shape please us, our next consideration is his soundness; for, though the horse dealer may declare that he is sound as a bell, we are to take the phrase as one having various meanings, and not be deterred from examining him, and narrowly, too, on that account."

"Sight, wind, and limb, must be the uppermost objects of inquiry; for nine horses out of ten are defective in one of these particulars. First, then, examine his eyes, and do this before he come out of the stable. Having placed him so that the light may fall upon the eyes, but in one direction, see that they are of the same size, and equally full; that the bows are not prominent, and that one does not project more than the other; that the eyes are perfectly clear and transparent; and that the pupils, or apples of the eye, are exactly alike in size as well as color. A sunken eye, or one over which the lids are partly closed—a projecting horn—an opaque or semi-opaque front—a pupil dilated, or a white or clouded one—are so many omens of disease, for which we should reject the prais as a cupid, or what is often worse, a blinker, who will shy at all he meets with, and break your neck the first poser you ride him at."

"Having satisfied yourself in regard to his peepers, have him pulled out and next proceed to examine his pipes. If good and sound, on being nipped in the gullet, he will utter such a sound that cannot fail to strike the ear as the emission of a good pair of bellows; but if his lungs are touched, and he is a piper—that is, broken winded, or having no wind at all—he will give vent to a dry, husky, short cough."

"Should a horse be suspected of bad wind, however, the purchaser cannot do better than direct his attention to the flanks, which under such circumstances, will work either much quicker than ordinary; they will be considerably longer in contracting themselves in order to squeeze the wind out, than in filling to let it in, which they do, if he is a piper, quite suddenly. But although not a piper, he may be a whistler, or, what is worse, a roarer—the first may be known by peculiar wheezing, he is addicted to, when put to sudden or continued exertion; the latter by blowing his horn clamorously under similar circumstances: and either may be made to display itself, by the purchaser giving him a smart cut, or even feigning to do so with his bit of lash."

"Thirdly and lastly, as to the limbs. If, in passing our hand down his legs, we find any unnatural protuberance, or puffiness, or, in feeling first one leg and then the other, we discover any difference between them, disease, more or less, is present: he may not be lame, but he is not clean upon his legs. Splendid windings, and ringbones, may be present without occasioning lameness, but they are all unnatural, are considered blemishes, and are all to be regarded with a suspicious eye, as either denoting past hard work, or betokening future evils."

"On the same principle, a horse may have a spavin, and be only stiff from it at starting, or he may have a curb, or a thorough pin, and be perfectly sound; but these are still blemishes, and as such, detract from the intrinsic value of the animal. In explaining the advantages resulting from good conformation, we are naturally led to make remarks *en passant*, on the disadvantages from one bad; in pursuance whereof I have shown why such a structure is bad, a question that necessarily entails upon us the mention of the disorders originating therein, i. e., the disease to which such parts, in consequence of being mal-formed, are predisposed."

[Farmer's Cabinet.]

CORN BISS. Our Deerfield friend mentions a method practiced in his town of erecting corn houses with cribs very convenient and safe and with very little expense. The slats leaving open spaces for drying corn in the ear, exposing the corn in wet weather leave it sometimes liable to injury. The slats and spaces being of the same width, a second set to fill the open spaces may be so constructed as to move in and cover those already made; and the movement of opening and shutting may be made with the facility of opening and closing the slats of a window blind.

[Monthly Visitor.]

### THE PURCHASE OF A HORSE.

The following directions, &c., were first published in England as part of a size essay. I copy from Skinner's Farmer's Library, and I think they may be valuable to the reader of the Cabinet. When the farmer wishes to purchase a horse, and is obliged to go into the market or to auction to do it; he hardly runs a greater risk in any purchase he makes: and would do well either thoroughly to acquaint himself in the matter or take a friend with him who is at home when handling the horse. This comes from one who has suffered from his own ignorance.

"Having selected a horse whose make and shape please us, our next consideration is his soundness; for, though the horse dealer may declare that he is sound as a bell, we are to take the phrase as one having various meanings, and not be deterred from examining him, and narrowly, too, on that account."

"Sight, wind, and limb, must be the uppermost objects of inquiry; for nine horses out of ten are defective in one of these particulars. First, then, examine his eyes, and do this before he come out of the stable. Having placed him so that the light may fall upon the eyes, but in one direction, see that they are of the same size, and equally full; that the bows are not prominent, and that one does not project more than the other; that the eyes are perfectly clear and transparent; and that the pupils, or apples of the eye, are exactly alike in size as well as color. A sunken eye, or one over which the lids are partly closed—a projecting horn—an opaque or semi-opaque front—a pupil dilated, or a white or clouded one—are so many omens of disease, for which we should reject the prais as a cupid, or what is often worse, a blinker, who will shy at all he meets with, and break your neck the first poser you ride him at."

"Having satisfied yourself in regard to his peepers, have him pulled out and next proceed to examine his pipes. If good and sound, on being nipped in the gullet, he will utter such a sound that cannot fail to strike the ear as the emission of a good pair of bellows; but if his lungs are touched, and he is a piper—that is, broken winded, or having no wind at all—he will give vent to a dry, husky, short cough."

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AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 1848.

## COLOR OF SNOW—ITS INHABITANTS.

A Yankee boy asked us the other day why snow is always white, and appeared to be much astonished when we told him that, although with us it was so, it did not in every country always appear white. The white color of snow is undoubtedly owing to the arrangement of the particles of the vapor from which it is formed. A certain degree of cold is necessary to form it, and the moisture, or vapor, has the minute particles of which it is formed thrown into just such a state, or very near it, whenever that particular temperature takes place. It has been found that the colors of bodies depend very much, if not entirely, upon the arrangement of their particles by which they reflect this or that kind of rays of light. Some experiments of Dr. Brewster, of Edinburgh, prove this. He took a piece of polished steel, and by heating it to different degrees of temperature, different colors are exhibited, and by making slight cuts on its surface, some of them straight and parallel to each other, some of them curved or waved, &c., he also was enabled to exhibit different colors in consequence of the light being reflected at different angles, and of course different rays striking the eye. In regard to the color of snow, we believe that in our latitude it is always of a brilliant white color. But in higher latitudes it has been seen of a red color. This at first astonished Parry and his companions, who discovered it in the arctic regions. After a close examination it was found that the red color was occasioned by a foreign substance mingled with it, and which, on further examination, was found to be a very minute vegetable, something like some of the mosses or mould. Indeed, it might with propriety be said to be mouldy snow.

Capt. Parry observes that the arctic mountains, about which he observed the red snow, are about six hundred feet high, and extended eight miles in length. The depth to which the color penetrated has been variously stated by different observers. Some found that it descended many feet beneath the surface, while others never ascertained that it spread beyond one or two inches.

There is no reason to suppose, says he, that the coloring matter itself, as well as the snow, is a meteorological product, although Humboldt certainly mentions a shower of red hail which fell at Paramo, in South America. Moisture is, no doubt, essential to the production of this plant, as it is to all others of the kind; but when once formed, it seems to possess the power of continued and increasing vegetation, even over rocks and stones, with only an occasional supply of fluid.

It may appear strange to us that a vegetable substance, even of the most minute and imperfect kind, should exist in snow—but this is not so strange as it is that certain kinds of animals should only be found in it. We have all seen what are called snow fleas, and observed, after snow has been on the ground and the action of the sun and successive thaws have rendered it a little granular and coarse, how these little creatures will increase, even until it becomes quite black with them. These form beautiful microscopic objects. The brilliant crystals of snow, and the black, queer looking animals sporting over them, seem to riot in a world of crystalline beauty, are singularly striking to the observer, and cannot help exciting his wonder and surprise at the care with which Omnipotence has peopled almost every element and medium with plants and animals so formed as to derive life and enjoyment from them, and be unable to exist any where else.

RATHER COOL. Tuesday, the 11th instant, was an exceedingly cold day, as we know by experience and from the testimony of numerous prints in various parts of the country. In this region the thermometer, in the morning, indicated about twenty degrees below zero. At Littleton, N. H., says a correspondent of the Atlas, "the mercury ranged, by different thermometers, at from thirty-two to thirty-four degrees below zero." At Montpelier, Vt., says the Patriot, the mercury indicated thirty-five below zero. At Boston it stood six below. All eyes are now turned toward Franconia, N. H., the far-famed cold place of the States, which has not yet been heard from. The Boston Journal says that, at Franconia, "it probably fell as low as forty-two, and would have fallen lower if the mercury had not frozen."

Since the 11th we have experienced all sorts of weather—snow storms and rain storms—foggy spells and chilly snaps—and at the present writing, Monday, we have an out-and-out spring-like day, and what little ice and snow the late rain left on the ground, is fast disappearing before the warm rays of the sun.

P. S. Tuesday's mail brought a report from Franconia. The thermometer on the morning of the 11th, reached a lower point than ever before recorded, thirty-nine below zero.

DANCE OF THE ELEMENTS. There has been a real rigodon with the weather within or during the last week. It has been

"From grave to gay, from lively to severe." A writer in the Gardiner Fountain, over the signature of "G.," says that "on Saturday, 8th inst., the barometer, at 8 o'clock A. M., was 30.01. In the night the thermometer had fallen to 15° below 0. On Sunday, the 9th, the barometer at noon had risen to 27° 97, and the thermometer had fallen to 40. On Monday, the 10th, the barometer at 10 P. M. was 30.11, and the thermometer 12 below 0. Thus in a little more than 60 hours the barometer had fallen an inch and .04 and risen 5° 14, and the thermometer had risen 55° and fallen 52°."

BIG BOY. A correspondent of "Mann's Family Physician" states that a son of Capt. Charles Morse, of Norridgewock, 12 years of age, weighs one hundred and ninety-one pounds and three-quarters! He stands five feet high—measures one foot eight inches across the shoulders, three feet eight and a half inches around the breast, three feet eleven inches around the hips—the arm is one foot two inches in circumference above the elbow, thigh two feet one inch, and the leg one foot and six inches. Verily they have a young giant in the shire town of old Somerset; and he is represented as being as active and intelligent as any of the boys of his age, not inches

## THE LYCEUM.

The lecture on Friday evening last by the Rev. Ray Palmer of Bath, upon "Naples and its environs," was well attended.

Mr. Palmer lectured without notes, occasionally reading extracts from a "daily journal" which he kept, while traveling in Italy, a few months since. He describes the Bay of Naples as being a beautiful sheet of water, in the form of an ox-bow, and at the bend of which is situated the city of that name. The city is most densely populated, the houses being huddled together, and the streets are with one exception, so narrow as to scarcely deserve the name—for, as he describes it, articles may be handed from the windows of one house to the other across the streets, in many places. The population is made up of many classes. The population, with about an equal number of each. There is no such thing as a "middle class" in Naples—one half of its inhabitants live in luxury, while the other half subsist by begging and menial service, and who live almost entirely in the streets, without homes and without shelter, and resorting to all sorts of expedients to extract charities from the passers by, and especially from travelers and strangers.

His description of the ruins of the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum was graphic. A considerable portion of Pompeii has been excavated, after having been buried some eighteen hundred years. Many curiosities there found have been carried to Naples and placed in a vast museum, some of which are in a very perfect state. The streets and houses of this ancient city show that the people who inhabited it were no strangers to refinement or luxury. The floors of the houses were of polished blocks of marble and of various colors, while the walls were adorned by the most magnificent and gorgeous frescoes, some of which were very readily perceived to be illustrations of the mythology of the ancients. The remains of the inhabitants were to be found upon every side and in every posture, showing that their destruction was instantaneous.

From observation, Mr. P. did not believe that Pompeii was destroyed by being inundated with the burning lava from Mount Vesuvius at the time of its great volcanic eruption, but rather that the inhabitants were instantly destroyed by the sulphurous gas which it emitted, and that the city was buried by the incessant showering of cinders; as instead of its being covered with the hard lava, its covering is of loose earth.

Mr. Palmer, with his traveling companions and guides, ascended to the very summit of Mount Vesuvius—a feat requiring no ordinary exertion. His description of it was intensely interesting. The mouth of the volcano is about half a mile wide. Into this they entered, and climbing over huge masses of lava, (which were thrown up in a similar manner to the flakes of ice in a "jam" when the ice leaves our river in a freshet in the spring), reached the aperture of the volcano; and their guides having provided themselves with some eggs, they were roasted upon the hot lava and eaten.

Mr. P. gave descriptions of many other things in the vicinity of Naples, which were very interesting, but which we have not room to notice. The lecture was very instructive and interesting, and gave the most ample satisfaction.

Thomas H. Phillips, Esq., of Boston, will lecture before the Lyceum this (Wednesday) evening.

## A SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.

MR. HOLMES—Not long since the writer was at a place where a young female was washing out clothes in warm water. She had not been at work but a short time before she was heard to exclaim, "Look here, look here, and see how curious these needles are." There were several needles lying on the window sill, which exhibited a singular appearance indeed. They would not only, on having her finger brought in contact with them, adhere to it, but would also move toward it, as though impregnated strongly with the magnetic principle, when placed within a short distance of them. But what presented the greatest curiosity was that they would, on having her finger held directly over them, rise towards it far enough to become perfectly clear of the window sill, without coming in close union with it, and then quiver and vibrate, as though hesitating whether to fall back or rise still farther. On enquiry it was found that the needles had been touched with loadstone; but what should make them tend towards animal substance, and especially hand between that and something else, partakes of the mysterious.

Turner, Jan. 3, 1848.

NOTE. The fingers of the young woman must have been in an electric state, occasioned by the washing. It would have been interesting to have some other experiments tried at the time, in order to have more facts to lead to the true cause of the phenomenon. [Ed.]

COURT MARTIAL OF FREMONT. A court martial has been in session for more than a month in the city of Washington, to examine charges preferred against Lt. Col. Fremont by Gen. Kearney. It is stated that it will cost the Government upwards of \$100,000! Some of the proceedings of this body are ridiculous in the extreme. The Traveller, in speaking of the trial, says:

"To illustrate the style in which things are done before this grave and important Court, sitting under the very eyes of the Chief Magistrate of the Union, take the following: On Saturday last, Col. Benton, Fremont's father-in-law and counsel, undertook to scold and brow beat his son-in-law, Gen. Kearney, who was on the witness stand, for the purpose, it would seem, of frowning down and disconcerting the Gen'l. Kearney protested against the conduct of Benton, not that he cared for the frowns and menaces of the counsel, but as disrespectful to the Court. Col. Benton then rose and justified himself in his course of head-shaking and forehead-wrinkling, on the ground that Kearney had done the same towards Fremont. Great excitement was produced, and the Court was immediately cleared for deliberation.

Can anything be more ridiculous than such proceedings? A grave Senator and a brave Brigadier General making up mouths at each other, and struggling for life to see which could make up the ugliest, and all at the expense of the United States."

The following is a list of Officers of Oberlin Division, S. of T., for the present Quarter—S. Deering, W. P.; J. M. Nash, W. A.; U. L. Pettigill, R. S.; A. Kallach, A. R. S.; S. Patterson, Jr., F. S.; J. S. Barnett, T.; B. T. Ingraham, C.; H. M. Harlow, A. C.; G. H. Parker, I. S.; C. Hewins, O. S.

SHOCKING. The Picquet (Nova Scotia) Chronicle states that a little girl, in that vicinity, eight years of age, was recently killed and eaten by the bears.

## DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF JURORS.

MR. HOLMES—I read the article in your last paper, on the "Rights of Jurors," with much interest and satisfaction. The sentiments there expressed by the foreman of that impartial, independent little band, ought to be familiar to the virtuous, honest hearted, and steady minded sons of our land, on whom rests the foundation of our civil and religious privileges. The reading of that article awakened in me a desire to see published what are the qualifications and duties of jurymen. In the following humble attempt to give my own views on this subject, I trust my want of ability on the same, will call forth the desired assistance from a more suitable source.

A jury in our country is a most important tribunal. Their responsibilities are most sacred ones. They are agents of Him who judges between a finite creature and his Maker, appointed to decide on the innocence or guilt of a fellow being with regard to his brother man. To be qualified for this responsible station, a person should have a clear head, a sound mind, and an honest heart. According to a sound and long proved saying, "Old men for council,"—age for deliberate consideration, (the passions need not have departed, but reason should be fully on her throne,) a jurymen should be of suitable ripeness of years, possessing due sensibility to suffering, and entertaining a just regard for the dearness of human life. No others should be liable to serve as jurymen. Jurors should be free from all fixed prejudice, partiality, affection, or interest, in regard to the person on whom they are to sit in judgment. They are to hold the life of the humblest citizen as dear to him as that of the king on his throne. Whilst they should use all their power to ascertain and defend the innocence of the most trifling individual,—so they should by no means spare the guilty, although his humility and penitence might call forth pity,—his blameworthy and amiable manners might excite sympathy,—his beauty, accomplishments,—or, notwithstanding he may be studded by wealth, power, or station, which too often leads proud man to think that he is not amenable to the same laws and tribunals, and his weaker and humbler brethren are. Nor are these tribunals to hear their opinion of the person's guilt or innocence from what he has been known to be heretofore; but they are to decide according to what he is proved to be now. It is difficult to tell what some persons have been. Instances are not wanting in which men practice iniquity a long time undisturbed, appearing amiable and honest before men. At length a single act discloses the depravity of their hearts. We are frequently surprised by history and our own observation with disclosures involving this truth. Or this may be the person's first offence, having thus far acted under restraint. And he may have deservedly borne a good reputation hitherto, and even on Christian principles; but is now left to do evil.

On the other hand, there are sometimes persons who for a few follies and inconsiderate acts, which perhaps do not discover great depravity of heart, are awarded among men a reputation worse than belongs to their real character. Their bad acts have come to judgment, and common report may have charged them with some of which they were not guilty. Mankind are disposed to be prejudiced and uncharitable,—and they are sometimes partial and fickle in their decisions on one another. Nor are the jury to regard the views and wishes of the public towards him on whom they are to pass sentence. The public may be incensed against the unhappy being on account of the character which has heretofore been accorded to him by the world,—a character which his imperfect fellow man may have in part, unjustly given him. Perhaps the public gall is poured out upon him on account of the flagrancy of the crime of which he is charged, when possibly he may be innocent. Nor are the jury to be influenced by the law upon which his sentence is founded if they pronounce him guilty. At this day, there appears to be, in many instances, a strange sympathy in behalf of the accused. People pity the criminal. Although it is admitted and believed by them that he is guilty of a great crime, yet they say it is hard that he should suffer the full penalty of the law. But I think it would be well for us to inquire if this seeming tenderness for the deserving suffering of some, is not a diseased feeling, founded on selfishness and a desire to throw off the burden of the law. It is true that "the way of the transgressor is hard." We should all discountenance undue severity of punishment; we would pity, indeed, the rebellious mortal, and would not desire punishment as revenge. But what has he done! He has gone contrary to all law,—perhaps taken the life of an innocent fellow being. And is it asking too much to require, for a cool, deliberate, unprovoked, unrepenting murder, that the depraved perpetrator shall suffer himself what he has thus wantonly inflicted on another, as atonement for the outrage he has committed on society? He has forfeited the rights of his being. It is not now to his temporal comfort we are to look. It is for the good of the obedient part of society that we are to provide. And so great are the selfishness and want of principle in our land at this time, and so frequent and alarming are the outbreaks of depravity among us, it seems that we need the example of the most stern justice administered to stay the hand of crime.

But to return from my digression, and conclude. The jury's business is not with the law, but with the evidence, (leaving the sentence of law to another tribunal,) and this they are bound to investigate and weigh with the utmost care and patience; and then to give their verdict according to their consciences, and the best of their opinions on the evidence before them. ONE AMONG MANY.

NOTE. We have admitted the above communication, because it contains much good sense and sound reasoning. We are aware, however, that he is a little old fashioned in his doctrine in regard to capital punishment, and that his views on this point are diametrically opposite to a large and increasing number of good and conscientious persons, who are striving to do away with all punishments by death.

FRENCH CLAIMS. The Committee on Foreign Relations have reported a bill raising five millions of dollars, in the form of five per cent. stocks, for the purpose of paying the claims of those who suffered by the French spoliation. If this claim is not paid soon, it will be claimed by the fifth generation—if paid this year it will have to be handed over to some who are the third generation of descendants of those who suffered.

NEW MODE OF MAKING RAILROAD RAILS. Oliver Ames, of Falls Village, in Conn., has patented a new mode of constructing rails and ties, for railways. What they call the "pile" or "faggot" is twisted before it is rolled. In this way the fibres are laid together like those of ropes.

## LETTERS FROM THE WEST.

NUMBER III.

BURNED PRISON, WYOMING, ILLINOIS, December 30th, 1847.

DEAR SIR:—The way a farm is made in "these diggings" is something as follows:—Government land, or "Congress land" as called here, is worth \$1.25 per acre, and entered at the district office in lots of from forty acres up to any amount paid for, cash down.

The settler may buy his land, or may make an improvement, by simply going on to any unentered tract, as best suits him. If the latter, he will hold a pre-emption for one year by complying with the law and filing his intentions within thirty days after settlement.—In commencing a farm the first thing is to cut and haul his logs, and get ready for putting up his house. On the day appointed the neighbors collect, and in a few hours put up the walls, cut out the holes for two doors, and generally cover the building with boards split of oak, four feet long, and six inches wide, laid on poles and weighted down with other poles in lieu of nailing. The settler afterward "chinks" the cracks, "daubs" them with clay mortar; makes his doors, hangs them on wooden hinges; builds a chimney with split sticks and clay mortar; splits "punches" five or six feet in length for his floor; and he has his cabin complete—one room, two doors, and no window. This is the simple form, on which he can afterwards improve, as taste dictates and means allow. This is, however, the way the "first settlers" all proceed, before mills and mechanics are within reach.

The next step is the "clearing." All timber less than a foot diameter is generally cut, piled and burnt. All over a foot is girdled by cutting a chip through the bark and sap-wood around the tree. The best splitting trees (oak, here) are cut and split into ten feet rails, and laid around the clearing. When the brush is burnt the clearing is ready for the plow; and corn or wheat put in, as suits the season. The crop of corn from such land in this region may generally average thirty-five bushels in good seasons, with one or two plowings and as many chippings with the hoe. New-ground corn will be safe from frost if planted the first of June. (But it should be remembered that we use the large wheel corn, which takes longer to mature than the northern corn.) The cost of first clearing the land in the manner spoken of is about four dollars per acre; and the cost of making rails is 35 to 50 cents per hundred, and about 25 cents for laying them into fence. The manner of fencing is that in which "old Virginia never tire"—that is, the Virginia or worm fence. Each panel is half a rod long and ten rails high, requiring twenty rails per rod to make a first rate fence, (of the kind,) thus the fence costs 20 cents per rod, including board. Should rail timber be distant, the hauling would have to be added, at the rate of \$1.50 per day for a four horse team and feed for them. This is about the expense of opening a farm where labor is 50 cents per day and board. Good oak rails will last in such fence, if the bushes and weeds are kept out of the fence row, about ten years—but will require re-setting once or twice during the time. Where walnut or locust can be obtained, rails will last much longer. I have some walnut rails now quite sound, which were made more than twenty years since. This kind of fence, where timber is plenty and easily split, and where land is not higher than it is here, is about as cheap as any. If well put up, and particularly if staked at the corners, it is hard to throw down.

As to stables and out-houses they are not sufficiently used in this country. A log stable is put up and covered like the house, but the cracks are left open. This is occupied by the horses. The oz in this country cannot be said to "know his master's stall," for the simple reason that his master has never thought of building one for him. Cattle, hogs and sheep are generally considered as out-door animals, and left to take the weather when a week's work would build a shelter for them.

If sawed lumber is wanted, we can get oak, maple, poplar, &c., at about \$10 per thousand, split and thick. Pine, we have none. The distance of hauling, of course, varies—sometimes ten or twelve miles. Carpenters' wages are about \$1.50 per day and board; bricklayers, \$2 to \$5 per thousand; lime, 20 cents per bushel (the burners first slacking it); brick-layers' wages, about \$1.50. (Mechanics generally receive about three times the price of farmers' labor per day.) Farming tools cost an advance of near 25 per cent. on Eastern prices. A good work horse is worth \$50; cow and calf, \$6 to \$10; yearling calves, \$1.50 to \$2.

I have thus sketched a few of the prices at which a new farm can be cleared and stocked in the manner of "these diggings," or say, in Southern Illinois—which I wish particularly understood is not actually the whole of the West; that little country or location being more indefinite than "down East" or "up East." Prices are generally higher for labor farther North; and if one chooses the wide prairies, he must haul his rails, timber, and fire-wood after buying them—but will find his farm ready cleared for him; and he will break up the prairie turf with six and eight oxen instead of two as in the timber land. Cattle are much higher at the North than here—paying a good profit by driving from here, three or four hundred miles.

As to the manner of clearing pursued here, namely, leaving all the large timber standing to be removed as it gradually decays and falls, each must think for himself. It is less work at first than the Eastern method, and brings the labor at times between crops when there is less leisure; tends to keep the soil light, by the gradual decay of the bark and sap-wood; and in burning up the dead remains of falling timber, I think there is less injury to the ground than by the hot fires of large green timber, which must destroy much of the vegetable mould. The "deadening," however, is the universal method here.

As to the cost of improved lands here, it is "as you light of chips." Eastern or old country men, who have their farms to sell them, understand their value and will not give them away. Other settlers generally consider that a farm occupied eight to ten years has "paid for itself," and, in selling, will demand but little above the price of "Congress land," unless there are fruit trees upon it, when something more must be added. These improvements are what new settlers from the East should purchase. Many a good farm of 40 acres,—25 or 30 cleared and fenced,—and the buildings of the country, can be had for \$100 or less, with plenty of public land lying beside it, which can be had for \$1.25 per acre. The pioneer wishes to change, and will sell his place for a little more cash than he paid for his land, without regard to the labor expended upon it. It has given him his "living," and he is satisfied.

I will give "further particulars" in future. In the mean time, I wish to be understood as giving only a sketch of facts actually existing in this portion of the country—not as applied to "all the West." At the proper time I can state my own views. Eastern men are by no means obliged to follow in the footsteps of such "illustrious predecessors." Those who follow a different course are amply rewarded. Yours, most truly, WANDERER.

## TRIAL OF DR. COOLIDGE.

The trial of Dr. Coolidge for the alleged murder of Edward Mathews will commence in this town on Tuesday next. The Court will hold its session in Rev. Mr. Tappan's Meeting House. We have made arrangements for a full and accurate report which will be published in the Farmer.

AN EXPENSIVE KISS. The Bangor correspondent of the Boston Courier gives quite a fictitious and graphic sketch of "love making in a stage coach." It seems that an amorous bachelor, some time since, chanced to be thrown into the company of a "country lassie" in the Bangor and Exeter coach. The bachelor, imagining that "the omnipresent eye of public opinion" could not, in such a place, be upon him, commenced taking such liberties with her as he fancied would be agreeable,—such as kissing, hugging, &c. To his surprise and discomfort he was repulsed repeatedly, until the attention of the driver was attracted. The girl or her father soon after commenced a civil action for damages for the assault. This was tried before the District Court, at its late term, held in Bangor, a few weeks since. The defendant endeavored to show that his "attentions were invited by the young lady," until the attention of the driver was attracted, and his curiosity prompted him to look into the coach, when she undertook to "play the prude." The jury, which had a number of "old bachelors" upon it, could not be made to believe that the young lady did thus demean her sex, and rendered a verdict of \$300 against the defendant. The correspondent adds, "this is the way public opinion protects women from the advances of the male sex." And knowing this, how seldom is it that a man, in his senses, dares by "a look, word or gesture of intentional impudence, to assail her." The "extract" of \$300 will probably damp his ardor.

CAPITAL IS RAILROADS. The Chicago Democrat enumerates the several Railroads begun and to be commenced in the far West. Summing up the whole, we find it to amount to forty-two millions of dollars. Adding the amount of projected roads at the East, it will swell the amount to a hundred millions of dollars, required to be expended during the next three years in railways.

ANOTHER ENGLISH FORTUNE. Mr. Samuel Wyatt, landlord of the United States Hotel in Portland, has become heir to an immense estate in the city of Allington, England. Hope he will be more fortunate in obtaining it than many of the expectants of English fortunes in this country have been of late.

STEAMING ON THE ORONOCO. Vespasian Ellis has obtained from the Government of Venezuela the exclusive right of navigating the above river by steam for eighteen years. It is navigable all seasons of the year 1900 miles, through a very fertile and populous country. He has got up a company, and a stock of \$300,000 has been subscribed in New York, and they will soon show the natives the difference between paddling with steam and with Indian power.

SOUTHERN MANUFACTURES. The Press in Georgia is endeavoring to rouse the people of that state to the subject and utility of manufacturing cotton. Why should not they prosper as well or better there than at such immense distances from the cotton field? A great amount of transportation would be saved.

CATHEDRAL IN MILWAUKEE. The corner stone of a large Cathedral has been laid in Milwaukee. It is to be 155 feet long and 75 feet wide.

ALL GREAT BRITAIN SEEKING. Accounts from England state that the Influenza prevails throughout the whole island of Great Britain.

SERIOUS DISCUSSION. The members of the British Parliament are discussing the question of adjourning at midnight instead of sitting at night, and going to work in the daytime like honest men.

CONSIDERABLE OILY. During the year 1847 there were imported into the United States 131,410 bbls. of sperm oil, and 320,645 of whale oil.

VULCAN'S COAT. An English tailor has made a coat of Vulcanized India Rubber which is without stitch or seam.

COLD WATER ARMY. Fifty six thousand, three hundred and eighty-one persons have signed the pledge of total abstinence to the Boston Washingtonian Society since 1841.

YANKEE LECTURES IN EDINBURGH. Ralph Waldo Emerson is delivering a course of lectures before the Edinburgh Philosophical Institute.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION. The boilers of the steamboat Blue Bird, running on the Ohio river, were burst on the 8th inst., causing a perfect wreck of the boat. There were 70 passengers on board, of whom twenty or thirty perished. The boilers were old and defective.

MARTYRS. A writer estimates the number of persons who have suffered martyrdom, on account of protestantism, to be fifteen millions.

SANDWICH ISLANDS. Thomas R. Eldridge has been appointed charge d'affaires at the Sandwich Islands and to Peru. He will have to straddle pretty well to be in both places at once.

DEATH OF SENATOR FAIRFIELD. There has been an impression here that the "sudden taking off" of Mr. Fairfield, was the result of an error in practice. Of this, not being surgically educated, we are not judges. We have heard astonishment expressed, by physicians here, of the character of the solution that was injected into the cavities whence the water was drawn. One of our oldest and most experienced physicians says, in all his practice he never injected a stronger liquid, in such a case, than diluted port wine—and he doubts if there is such a disease as dropsy of the knee. [Portland Argus.]

SUDDEN DEATH. Mr. James Tibbets, of this city, died suddenly, on Sunday night last, from the bursting of a blood vessel. He retired to rest about 9 o'clock, apparently in good health, and at 10 o'clock he was a corpse. His age was about 43. [Bath Tribune.]

NEW INVENTION. Mr. W. M. Davis, of this town, has invented a new and important machine for turning Laths, Gunstocks, or any other irregular form. This machine is a great improvement on Mr. Blanchard's old machine, and it will be a great public advantage, coming at this time in competition with the old machine used for the same purpose. This machine is simple in its construction, entirely superseding the necessity of using a lathe to form another by. [Gardiner Fountain.]

## USE OF ETHER IN SURGERY.

Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston, has published a work on the use of this article in surgery. He has used it in two hundred cases, and he lays down the following facts as well established.

1.—Inhalation of ether produces insensibility to pain.

2.—If judiciously effected this insensibility is not followed by any dangerous consequences.

3.—Its administration is easy and usually requires but a few minutes.

4.—Individuals of all ages may be safely etherized.

5.—Individuals of the same age are susceptible to its influence in variable degrees.

6.—Surgical operations may be done under the effect of ether, which could not be done without.

7.—Operations, very short and not very painful, especially about the head and neck, are best done without the ether.

8.—The shock to the nervous system is greatly diminished by influence of ether.

9.—Its use has increased the success of operations by encouraging a resort to operations in the early stage of disease.

10.—The use of a sponge is better and safer than any special apparatus.

11.—In some peculiar cases an apparatus may be found best.

12.—Chronic pulmonary disease seldom forms an objection to its use.

13.—It may be often used favorably as a substitute for narcotics.

14.—Its employment does not retard the healing of wounds.

15.—The pains of death may be often relieved by etherization.

The book should be in the hands of every physician and surgeon.

We see that chloroform is recommended as a substitute for ether. It takes a less quantity, but it is more expensive.

The nitrous oxide or laughing gas is also used for the purpose of rendering persons insensible to pain; but this is also expensive, and cannot be so easily administered as ether.

FROM MEXICO. Vera Cruz dates have been received up to the 29th ult. Four days later.

Gen. Scott had issued orders for the army to spread over and occupy the Mexican country, until Mexico sues for peace, and is willing to make terms which will be acceptable to the United States.

All lines heretofore payable to the Mexican Government, are now demanded for the support of the American army.

A letter in the "Monitor," dated Queretaro, states that the present Congress will not come together again, several deputies having left. It adds that new deputies and senators will soon be in the city.

The Mexican Government was much cramped for the want of means.

Lieut. McDonally of the Third Artillery, and two other officers with a small party left Puebla for Jalapa on the 15th, having charge of considerable money, they were attacked by robbers but the accomplices were defeated.

The above is by the pony express of the Boston Times.

CALIFORNIA. A letter published in the Hartford Courant, from San Francisco, No. California, under date of Sept. 30, contains some items of interest. The writer represents every thing as in a quiet state—the flag of the United States floating in the breeze in all parts of the country. Building was increasing rapidly—two hundred small houses having been erected within six months. Several new commercial houses, from Boston, New York, &c., had been recently established. White ships, in considerable numbers, visited the Bay, to recruit, and others were deterred from visiting on account of the high rates of laborers' wages, which tempted men to desert the ships. A by-law had been passed by the Governor and Council, that all seamen found living on board, who have not a written discharge certified by the collector or his deputy, should be put on the public works for six months at hard labor. Mormon emigrants, numbering seven hundred wagons, who set out for California, had altered their course, and gone to Oregon, in consequence of the letter writer's assertions, of false representations made to them in regard to California. The crops of the past year are said to have been exceedingly good. Flour was saleable at \$12 a barrel, and every thing else was 100 per cent. in advance of home prices. [Traveller.]

ROBBERY IN BANGOR. We learn the following case of crime, from the Bangor Whig of Wednesday—

A young man of Bangor by the name of Charles E. Leighton, about nineteen years of age, was arrested on Monday by Constable Walker on a charge of robbing the Post Office.

It seems that about a month since Constable Walker discovered young Leighton coming out of the Post Office Avenue at a late hour of night, and had since seen him about the post office under circumstances which led him to suspect that all was not right. He communicated his suspicions to Constable Master, some ten days since, but there were no complaints of anything being lost, until Monday last, when Gen. Venzie stated that he had missed a large amount of drafts and money.

A warrant was issued against Leighton and he was arrested, and drafts were found upon him to the amount of two thousand four hundred dollars, but none of these were among those that had been missed.

Leighton denied for sometime any knowledge of drafts, money, or papers beyond what he had upon him, but upon being questioned as to where he had obtained the money with which he had purchased certain watches, rings, &c., he at length confessed that he had taken various letters from the Post Office boxes—one of them containing between two and three hundred dollars, also various drafts and other matters. A portion of these he had burnt, a portion he had thrown in a privy.—The letters were taken from the privy and found to be addressed to several of our business men showing that really the whole party of the boxes had been robbed.

He declares that he is alone in this matter. He was examined on Monday before U. S. Commissioner J. S. Rowe, and was bound over for trial at the U. S. District Court. In default of bonds in the sum of \$1200 he was committed to Jail.

MAN MISSING. Levi Fairbanks of Monmouth, Maine, left his home on the 3d, and arrived in Boston the 4th of November last. He remained there (as far as we know) about twenty days; since then nothing has been heard of him by his friends. He is about thirty-four years of age, middle size, dressed in black dress coat and satin vest. Any information about him addressed to his mother, Joanna Fairbanks, Monmouth, or his brother, Henry Fairbanks, Portland, Maine, will be thankfully received and liberally rewarded. Papers in New England and New York will do a favor to an afflicted mother by inserting this notice. [Times.]

ECLIPSES. There will be six eclipses this year; four of the sun and two of the moon. March 5th, a partial eclipse of the sun, visible. March 19th, a total eclipse of the moon, partially visible. April 24, eclipse of the



engaged, they both resolved to communicate the circumstances to Gen. Worth in person;

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This is a scan of a blank white piece of paper. There are no markings, text, or illustrations present. The surface appears slightly textured with very faint, sparse dark specks, likely due to the scanning process or the paper's grain.